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PSU student's play in production at internationally renowned festival.

M. Thomas Cooper, a Portland State University Theater Arts major, will see his play produced at the Humana Festival of New American Plays on March 29 in Louisville, Kentucky.

Originally conceived in a New Play Development class on-campus, Cooper's ten-minute play, *Tongue, Tied*, follows two lost souls who, plagued by malcontent sock puppets, seek professional help. According to Humana's website, the piece is a "zany and raucous exploration of accepting oddity—even if it's stuck to your hand."

Begun in 1976 to celebrate the contemporary American playwright, The Humana New Play Festival receives roughly 3,000 scripts for consideration annually and has premiered 3 Pulitzer Prize winning plays and countless other award-winning works.

Cooper has had a number of short plays presented in conjunction with the Ashland 10-Minute Play Festival, Theatre in the Grove and Portland State University. In 2005 his play *Rising* was a finalist for a Seattle company's Northwest Playwright Award. Another script, *Godot*, was adapted to film and produced by a Portland production company. His first novel, *42*, will be published in June 2008, by Ooligan Press.

For more information on the Humana Festival:  
<http://www.actorstheatre.org/humana.htm>